

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending herein. Claims 1-13 are allowed. Claim 18 has been amended as supported in the specification at pages 47-48, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. The objections to claims 18-21 are noted but deemed moot in view of the changes to claim 18 outlined above. Specifically, claim 18 has been amended to designate the first coercive voltage as “v1”, the second coercive voltage as “v2,” to change the inequality " $v2 < 0$ " to " $-v2 > 0$ --", and to change "or" to "--and--".

2. Claims 14-16 and 18-20 were rejected under §102(e) over Takeuchi. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 14-16. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against amended claims 18-20, it is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 14, Takeuchi fails to disclose each and every element of claim 14. Specifically, the relevant sections of Takeuchi cited by the Examiner clearly state that the first voltage applied is a positive voltage and the second voltage is a negative voltage (see Takeuchi Col. 18, line 66--Col. 19, line 5 and Col. 21, lines 60-65). In contrast, claim 14 specifically requires the change to the first state to be caused by the application of a negative voltage.

With respect to amended claim 18, amended claim 18 also requires the first coercive voltage, v1, to be a negative voltage.

For the foregoing reasons, Takeuchi fails to disclose each and every element of independent claims 14 and 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of independent claims 14 and 18 and dependent claims 15-16 and 19-20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

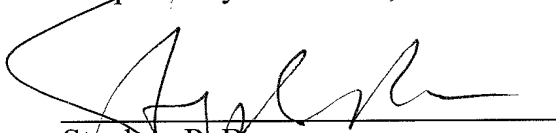
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/JAW/gmh

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320